

Arbor Day Program

State of Tennessee



Issued Jointly By

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PREPARATION

The first Friday in April is Arbor Day in Tennessee. Usually by that date the sap has risen in trees to such an extent that it is quite difficult, if not impossible in some instances, to set out shade trees successfully in this State; therefore, in preparing for an Arbor Day program it is advisable to do whatever actual tree-planting the school wishes before the real Arbor Day.

The latter half of February, or the first of March, is a good time to set out shade trees, since as a rule the sap has not risen in them by this time. Thus in preparing for Arbor Day celebration, it is suggested that the school make a plan, using a diagram of its grounds to show how the area would look at a bird's-eye-view, with the proposed trees, shrubbery and flower beds indicated on it. If the setting shown cannot be completed in one year, it can be worked out gradually year by year.

SUGGESTED TREES AND SHRUBS

Trees	Shrubs
Elm	Privet
Sugar Maple	Lilac
Hackberry	Althea
Willow Oak	Spirea
Pin Oak	Barberry
White Pine	
Spruce	
Hemlock	

The trees and shrubbery to be used should be secured in plenty of time before the actual setting is to take place during the latter half of February or the first of March. The setting then can be done on any convenient day during that period, when the weather is suitable. It should be borne in mind that when the trees are secured before setting time, they should be well heeled out so as to keep the roots in good condition.

Setting of the trees and shrubbery should be done by the students with the aid of their parents and teachers where possible and with the attendance of the school as a group.

The holes should be dug at least four feet across and perhaps two or three feet deep; they should then be filled either with the same dirt, or preferably with rich dirt, properly packed down so as not to settle too much after the trees are set out, leaving, however, plenty of room to place the roots in the ground as they were before the tree was dug up.

Many of the roots will be frazzled at the ends where the grubbing

hoe or plow has cut them; the ends of these should be trimmed off smoothly with a knife before the tree is reset. In placing the tree in the hole where it is to stand, the roots should be properly spread out and covered by pouring loose dirt over them. After the roots are thus covered and the ground sufficiently firmed by pressing it down with the feet, it would be very helpful to mulch the top of the ground around the tree for a distance of at least three or four feet with a layer of straw or leaves, which layer should be covered with a thin coat of dirt so as to keep the ground moist and to prevent it from baking and cracking. The trees should be watered through the first summer.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

1. Devotional exercises by a minister or some other suitable person, followed by a talk from him or her on some phase of tree life or bird life.

2.

ARBOR DAY SONG

(Tune: "America")

Joy for the sturdy trees;
Fanned by each fragrant breeze,
Lovely they stand.
The song birds o'er them trill;
They shade each tinkling rill;
They crown each swelling hill,
Lowly or grand.

Plant them by stream and way,
Plant them where children play,
And toilers rest;
In every verdant vale,
On every sunny swale;
Whether to grow or fail,
God knoweth best.

Select the strong, the fair;
Plant them with earnest care—
No toil is vain;
Plant in a fitter place,
Where like a lovely face
Set in some sweeter grace,
Change may prove gain.

God will his blessing send;
All things on Him depend—
His loving care
Clings to each leaf and flower,
Like ivy to the tower;
His presence and His power
Are ev'rywhere.

HISTORY OF ARBOR DAY

(To be read or memorized and recited by a student)

Arbor Day means tree day. It may seem somewhat strange that a State like Tennessee with so many trees and beautiful forests should have Arbor Day. We might expect such a day to be more befitting in a state where there are few trees, and naturally enough that is exactly where Arbor Day had its beginning. It has spread to others no doubt for the reason that states which have always had plenty of trees have become quite careless and unthinking, in many instances, about what their trees and their forests mean to them.

The state that first had an Arbor Day was Nebraska, and, as everybody knows, Nebraska once had very, very few trees. The people, though, who went to Nebraska to make their homes came from states which had plenty of trees, and, finding themselves in such surroundings, they became very much interested, and also very anxious to plant trees, not only for shade and for woodlands, but also for borders for their fields. They wanted trees planted along the borders of their fields so as to break the force of winds which blew over them; in this way their crops would be protected much better than if the wind had a clean sweep at them. After the inhabitants of Nebraska had planted many trees they wished to adopt a plan so as to get the tree planting done more rapidly. Thus they agreed upon the adoption of a tree planting time which they called "Arbor Day." In preparing for this time they got all the newspapers in the state to carry articles about it, and in this way encouraged every one to become interested in this tree planting day. So great an interest was aroused throughout the State of Nebraska that on the first Arbor Day a million trees were planted throughout the state. It must have been a happy feeling amongst those people and it must have been a wonderful sight to look over the level stretches of land in Nebraska and see neighbors gathered in groups setting out their trees on this first Arbor Day. They must have been very happy in thinking of the baby trees which they were setting as growing into big trees to give them shade, fire wood, protection from wind, and a beautiful appearance all over their state. From that day, the people of Nebraska have taken an active part in setting out trees for all the purposes they need them about their homes and on their farms. They now have many thousands of acres of woodlands.

The Arbor Day idea spread from Nebraska to all sections of the United States, and it is now an annual festival throughout the country in which most of the schools of our great land take a part. In connection with Arbor Day, birds are also considered in many instances, be-

cause it is known that birds are not only great friends to the people, but they are also among the very best friends to trees, and that they make their homes in trees.

Arbor Day does not come on the same day in every state, because the seasons do not come at the same time in the different states. In Massachusetts the spring time and tree setting time come later than in Tennessee, so we would expect Arbor Day to come later in Massachusetts than in Tennessee; and this is the actual case since Arbor Day comes in Massachusetts on the last Saturday in April.

Everybody on Arbor Day particularly should learn something to make them better love and appreciate the blessings which we enjoy because of trees, birds, and flowers.

4. Two compositions on some one particular tree written by a boy and a girl in the same grade, each from the particular view point which they wish.

5. A group of three standing up together; the first telling why it is desirable for everybody to know more about trees (five minutes for each student); the second, about two kinds of insects that hurt trees and how they do it; the third, how trees grow in groups as compared to the way they grow singly, or each by itself.

(To be read by a student)

6. Our trees have been so plentiful we have not stopped to think very much about them and to learn to love them as we should. We do not realize the struggle which trees make in their efforts to live. We ride along the roadside, or streets, passing them with their branches spread out over our heads without even giving them one thought, and especially do we not think of the many benefits we receive from them singly as shade trees and from them in groups or forests.

Many of us live in wooden houses, and of course the lumber that built them came from trees. We eat our hickory nuts, walnuts, pecan nuts, and many other kinds, all the fruit of trees. Many of us sit by our fire places in winter, or by our heating stoves to keep warm by the fire which is made from wood. Some of us ride on steamships which are made from lumber. Wherever we travel by railroad, the trains runs on steel rails which are laid on wooden ties, and whenever any of us go for a distance of even fifty miles on a train we pass over many thousands of cross ties which were cut from the trees of the forest. The furniture in our homes is made largely, if not entirely, from wood. Our desks in

school are made partly of wood, even though the wood may be fastened to steel or cast-iron frames. Clumps of trees near our homes or near our fields prevent the cold wind, or the hard blowing wind, from being so severe, either in its coldness or in the force with which it strikes.

Trees live, struggle, and grow. They send their roots down into the ground for food from the soil, their branches into the air for sunlight. In the fall of the year they throw down their leafy covering to the ground. This blanket of leaves helps to protect their roots; it prevents the heavy rains from washing the soil away, and holds the moisture in the soil for the trees to take up. The trees composing forests help to protect our streams. If it were not for the forests and their leafy litter on the ground the rainfall would hurry off the bare hillside into the streams and cause much damage from high waters washing away cultivated fields, bridges, houses in some cases, live stock, and sometimes human beings. Many of our hills and mountains are made up of great masses of rock covered with a very thin layer of dirt on which grow our wonderful forests. If our forests are destroyed, this shallow soil will gradually be washed away until there is nothing left but the bare rock upon which no trees can grow.

Many of our minerals in the soil are mined by using wood. One of the best examples is that of coal. A great quantity of wood is needed as mine props; so in procuring even our minerals, we find the forests necessary to furnish timber.

As we have seen above, our forests protect streams. These same streams are used in developing water power or electricity to light our homes, sometimes to cook our meals, and in many instances to run our manufacturing plants which make our clothes and shoes, knit our Sox and stockings, saw our lumber, print our books and newspapers, grind our flour and meal and perform many other useful labors.

The great bulk of our books and newspapers is made from pulp which comes from wood. It would be a very difficult task for us to secure the books we need if it were not for the forests which supply great quantities of wood for this purpose. It is probable that every book used in every school was once wood in some form. In our own state there are two pulp mills which take wood from the forests and make it into pulp which is later made into paper. Those of us who have an opportunity should visit these plants, one at Knoxville and the other at Kingsport, to observe how the wood is handled and made into pulp.

Wood alcohol (a deadly poison) is also made in great quantities from

trees from the forests. A number of wood alcohol plants have been built in Tennessee. One is at Memphis, another at Wrigley, one at Collinwood, and still another at Kingsport.

The shoes that we wear are made from leather tanned by tannic acid manufactured from chestnut wood, hemlock bark, and chestnut oak bark. In Tennessee there are eleven tannic acid plants which manufacture tannic acid from chestnut wood. These plants are located at Nashville, Harriman, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Bristol, Elizabethton, Newport, Tellico Plains, and two at Chattanooga. Many other products too numerous to mention are made from wood in Tennessee.

We must therefore be careful of our forests so that they will in turn protect us, and give us all the wood, lumber and other wood products that we need; so that they will protect our stream and give us all the water we require to drink, for our fish, for navigation, and for our water power.

One of the best ways by which we can protect our forests is to prevent them from burning over by forest or woods-fires. These injure and kill many trees and thus prevent us from having all the lumber that these killed and injured trees would make. They burn off the leaf litter and thus make it possible for our streams to become enormous floods which do a great amount of damage. They cause streams to go dry or become low during dry seasons, because the water, which should have soaked into the ground through the leaf mould to come out gradually during dry weather, had already run off over the bare hillsides.

Our forests are composed of trees. They are our friends. We must protect them and help them to grow. We should use our trees when they are ready for use, but we should see that other trees grow to take their places, and in this way we will have our trees and forests all the time.

CITIZEN BIRD

(To be read by a student)

7. Bird and Arbor Day, coming as it does in the early spring when nature is joyfully awakening from its winter's sleep, is a fitting time to make or renew the acquaintance of our birds. For what would spring be without the cheery songs and call-notes of the birds to herald its coming? If you live either in suburban or rural surroundings, step just beyond your door-step some morning before breakfast and tune your ear to the bird-voices around you. You will be surprised to hear so

many different kinds of birds and to know that there are so many. Any one who has studied birds and become acquainted with them can step out into his yard or nearby thicket or clump of trees on a spring morning and within a few minutes identify the songs of from ten to fifteen species within earshot. When you remember that only the male birds sing you can be thus assured that for every singer there is also a demure mate busying her mind about choosing or building the home about which her mate is probably singing. If you have never given much thought to birds, you probably do not realize what a joy they have really been to you all along. These beautiful spring mornings when you have been so exhilarated by being out of doors, have you stopped to consider that the birds alone furnished the music that touched within you the responsive chord? Now just think for a minute what it would all be without the song, the cheerfulness and the colorful presence of our feathered friends. You would not even have the green trees and the gay flowers to look at, for without birds insects would multiply so rapidly that all plant life, and crops as well, would be destroyed. Men who study insects—entomologists they are called—say that birds alone stand between us and insect plagues. Dr. L. O. Howard, one of the most famous entomologists, recently said that man would probably disappear from the earth, due solely to the fact that insects would finally get the upper hand and devour that upon which humans must subsist. It therefore behooves us to ardently protect the birds and to carefully conserve their numbers in order that the "balance of nature" shall not be too greatly disturbed. Aside from this thought for our self-preservation, every bird earns its right to live by the cheerfulness it broadcasts to all within sight or hearing.

Many a bird lover has a pair of Bluebirds which return to nest each year in a bird box in his back-yard. Every morning he is awakened by the joyous warble of the male just outside of his bedroom window and it launches him forth on his day's work with a feeling of good cheer and good will. Every one who lives in suburban or rural surroundings can have a pair of Bluebirds in his yard by erecting the right kind of box on a post eight or twelve feet high. The U. S. Department of Agriculture will send you free a book on correctly making bird boxes if you request Farmers Bulletin No. 609. There are many other birds which will nest in properly made boxes, such as the Carolina and Bewick (House) Wrens, Purple Martin, Crested Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Flicker and others. Every boy and girl, and grown people too, should try to have birds nesting in boxes about their homes. Such bird friends can call them their very own and watch and protect them like members of their family. There are also many other kinds of birds

that will make your yard their home if you will offer protection and good places to nest. Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Catbirds, Doves, Orioles, Warblers, Chats, Vireos, Chewinks or Towbees, Field and Chipping Sparrows, etc., etc. Most of the birds mentioned will thank you to provide for them thick clumps of shrubbery, tangles of rambling rose bushes, vine-clad trellises, honeysuckle arbors, cedar trees and other evergreens. When you find the nests of birds do not handle the eggs, do not muss the nest and do not spread the branches or pull them down. Secure a chair or ladder and be content to look into the nest with no more parting of the branches than is absolutely necessary. If you are not thus considerate, the birds will probably abandon the nest or go elsewhere to raise their next brood.

The study of birds is one of the most interesting of pastimes. The knowledge of our feathered friends, which is called ornithology, adds greatly to the pleasure we get from days and vacations spent out of doors. There are many books and magazines published in the interest of ornithology, all of which help the student to know more about birds. There is an organization called the Tennessee Ornithological Society, with headquarters at Nashville, composed of people interested in the work. Do not be content merely to call a bird a woodpecker when you should know each of the eight or ten different kinds near your home. Likewise you should know twenty to forty of the different kinds of warblers, from ten to fifteen of the different kinds of sparrows, from twenty to thirty of the different kinds of wild ducks, and so on. Begin with "Bird, Flower and Arbor Day" to make up a list of all the birds you know and add to this from time to time and see how many you can learn to know by name before this day 1927. As a guide it will be helpful for you to know that there should be 275 different kinds in the State of Tennessee at one time or another during the year, and all but 100 of these are found during the nesting season.

I USED TO KILL BIRDS

(To be memorized and recited by a student)

I used to kill birds in my boyhood,
Bluebirds and robins and wrens;
I hunted them up in the mountains,
I hunted them down in the glens;
I never thought it was sinful—
I did it only for fun—
And I had the rare sport in the forest
With the poor little birds and my gun.

But one beautiful day in the springtime
I spied a brown bird in a tree,
Merrily swinging and chirping,
As happy as bird could be;
And raising my gun in a twinkling,
I fired, and my aim was too true;
For a moment the little thing fluttered,
Then off to the bushes it flew.

I followed it quickly and softly;
And there to my sorrow I found,
Right close to its nest full of young ones,
The little bird dead on the ground.
Poor birdies! For food they were calling;
But now they could never be fed,
For the kind mother-bird who had loved them
Was lying there, bleeding and dead.

I picked up the bird in my anguish;
I stroked the wee motherly thing
That could never more feed its dear ones,
Nor dart through the air on swift wing.
And I made a firm vow at that moment,
When my heart with such sorrow was stirred,
That never again in my lifetime
Would I shoot a poor innocent bird.

WHAT DO WE BURN WHEN WE BURN OUR TREES?

(To be memorized and recited by a student)

9.

What do we burn when we burn a tree?
We burn the home for you and me;
We burn the carriage house, barn, and shed,
The baby's cradle, the little boy's sled,
The bookcase, the table, the rocker of ease—
We burn all these when we burn our trees.

What do we burn when we burn our trees?
The daily comfort which every one sees,
The wages for man for years to come
In factories big where busy wheels hum—
For industries many depend on trees—
When our forests burn we burn all these.

What do we burn when we burn our trees?
The homes of the birds, the squirrels, and bees,
The home of the brook and the cooling spring,
Where violets blossom and bluebirds sing,
The beauties of nature, so fair to please—
We burn all these when we burn our trees.
Summer or winter, day or night,
The woods are an ever new delight;
They give us peace, and they make us strong;
Such wonderful balms to them belong.

R. H. Stoddard.

10. A group of four students standing together; the first to tell of three birds which he knows to be friends of trees and how they are; the second to tell what he knows about fire among trees; the third to tell the effect of a forest fire on bird life and game in the woods; the fourth to tell how forest fires hurt our streams, springs and fish.

11. Have an upper grade student to write a composition on four kinds of trees that are most valuable in his county and in what way they are valuable.

12. Have a girl of an upper grade write about the tree that has added the most comfort and beauty to her home and rooms and in what way.

13.

HAIL, QUEEN FLORA

(To be sung in the open where trees are set)

(Tune: "Marching Through Georgia")

Hail the Queen of Arbor Day, so stately and so tall;
We'll gladly do her homage, she's the fairest queen of all;
We'll obey the summons when we hear Queen Flora call,
"Plant more trees throughout my kingdom."

Chorus

Hurrah, hurrah, Fair Flora is our queen!
Hurrah, hurrah, a fairer ne'er was seen!
Come rally round her standard, don her livery of green,
And we'll all plant trees throughout her kingdom.

Bring your spades and shovels, boys, we'll each one plant a tree;
We'll plant them in the school yard, where they'll shelter you and me;
We'll plant them on the highway, too, and very soon there'll be
No barren spots in Flora's kingdom.

Chorus

End program by singing the following song:

14.

ARBOR DAY DEDICATION SONG

(Tune: "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean")

The tree we are planting on this day
Is chosen with tenderest care;
May beauty adorn it hereafter
And clothe it with usefulness rare.
May green leaves, appearing each springtime
Be leaves of a fair book of fame,
And spread to the breezes the story
Extolling the new-given name.

The tree is an emblem of greatness,
As springing from one tiny seed;
It mounts ever upward and onward,
An emblem of greatness indeed:
The birds sing its praises to others,
The winds carry swiftly the tale;
The tree is the monarch of the forest,
Of hill, valley, greenwood, and dale.



ARBOR DAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE



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